Preliminary findings on Survey related to Remote Inspection and Audit Practices

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Objective and methodology of the analysis

“to assess the extent of applying remote practices in (public and private) food safety control”

Survey was available in 4 languages
Timeline of the survey

- **31 March**: Translation
- **30 April**: Response to the survey
- **31 May**: Preliminary findings
- **30 June**: Data analysis
- **31 July**: KII + 2nd round of responses
- **31 August**: Finalization of the survey

**Draft report**
Composition of survey respondents by entity

- Competent Authority / Regulator: 81%
- Food Business Operator (food Industry): 1%
- Auditor (food industry): 13%
- Auditor (certification body): 4%
- Other: 1%

113 responses included:
Composition of respondents by continent

- The Americas: 46%
- Europe: 17%
- Africa Arab States: 16%
- Asia and Pacific: 13%
- West Asia Arab States: 7%
- The Americas: 1%
Composition of respondents by language

- English: 43%
- Spanish: 35%
- French: 13%
- Arabic: 9%
Do you or any part of your competent authority or company carry out remote inspections/audits at present?

- Yes (72)
- No (37)
- Don’t know (4)

Only 5 respondents (all regulators) indicated that they would not consider remote practices in the future!
Types of remote practices based on actors

1) Official inspection by competent authorities replacing visits of establishments;
2) Remote audits conducted by certification bodies on voluntary third-party assurance programmes;
3) Remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks;
4) Remote assessments conducted by association on their members.
Preliminary findings

90% started to apply remote practices in the past 2 years due to COVID

“Remote” practice can have different forms (data, ITC etc.)

Most common communication platforms applied
Preliminary findings on current barriers

- Terminology issue
- Large unstructured data collection without compatible platform
- No harmonized protocols and guidelines
- Internet access and lack of visuals on FBOs
thank you

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